



A GLOBAL DISTRICT  
IN A GLOBAL CITY

# COLLEGE 101

## College Admissions Process

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

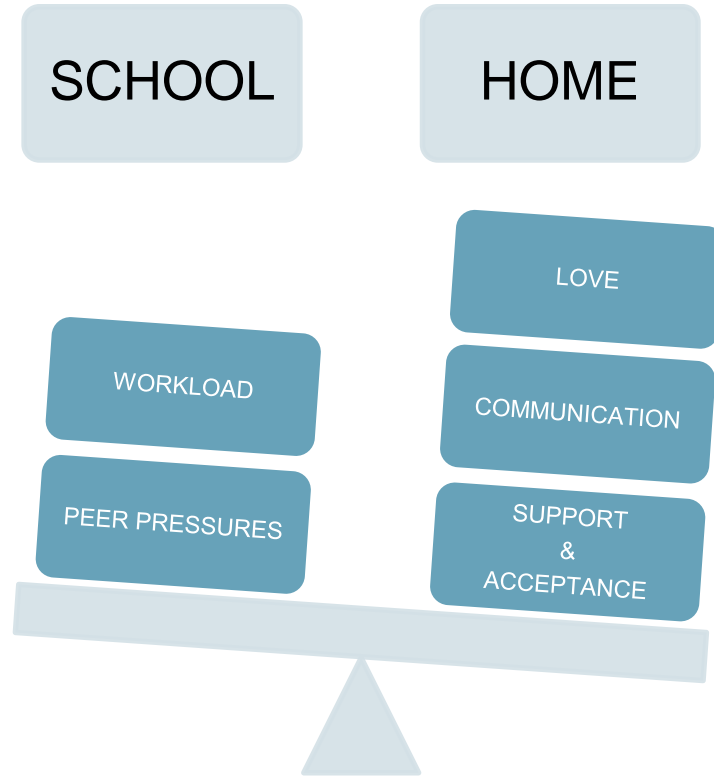


# TODAY'S GOALS

- College Admissions Process
- College Affordability
- Naviance Student Portal



# MENTAL HEALTH



## College admissions process

*“How can I assist my student through the college process?”*



# DEFINING COLLEGE

**College:** An educational or establishment offering instruction in a professional, vocational, or technical field

Community Colleges	Colleges/Universities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 2 year Associate's Programs</li><li>● 1 year certificate programs</li><li>● Degrees may be earned at community, technical, vocational colleges</li><li>● Students can transfer to 4-year colleges/universities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 4 Bachelor's Degrees</li><li>● Typically four to six years</li><li>● Normally entails a core curriculum</li><li>● Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science</li><li>● May matriculate advanced professional degree (i.e., law school, medical school, etc.)</li></ul>



---

# Creating a college list



# HOW DO I PICK? (COLLEGE “FIT”)

## College fit

A broad assessment of the extent to which an institution meets a student’s social, academic, and financial needs.

### Factors to determine college fit

- Academic programs/ majors
- Physical location of the institution
- Institutional size
- Student to professor ratio
- Retention/Graduation rates
- Campus Life/Student Activities
- Campus Diversity



### Examples

- If you **do not like cold weather**, choosing a college up north may not be a good “fit”.
- If you **want more individualized attention in class**, a large size college may not be a good “fit”.
- If **affordability is a factor**, researching financial opportunities is key!



# HOW DO I PICK? (COLLEGE “MATCH”)

## College match

Refers to the relationship between institutional selectivity and student’s academic ability, and is usually assess by their academic profile.

### Student Academic Profile

- Class ranking/Quartile
- Grade point average
- SAT/ACT scores

### Institutional Selectivity

- Highly selective 4-year institution
- More selective 4-year institutions
- Less selective 4-year institutions
- Non-selective 2-year institutions





# BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST: “REACH” “TARGET” “SAFETY”

- **Reach School** - A college or university where your academic profile is below the institution’s admission requirements. Although you do not meet the requirements, your academic profile is not too far outside the average admit range.
  - Example: Your Dream School you would love to attend in the fall but do not meet admissions requirements
- **Target School** – A college or university where your academic profile meets 1 or 2 admission requirement, but not all of them. There is a possibility of gaining admission.
  - Example: Applicant may meet the testing requirement, but their GPA is below the admission requirement.

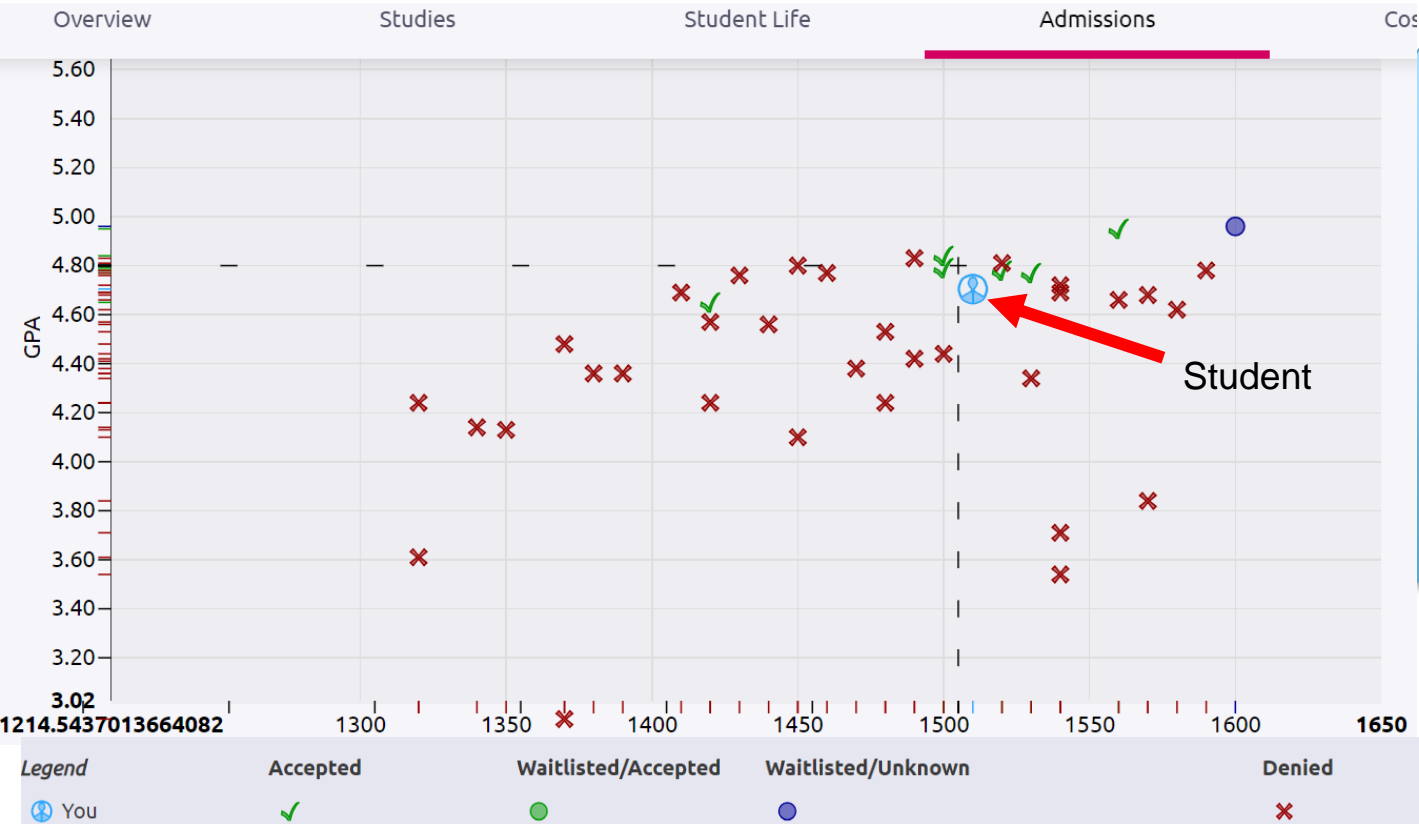


# SAFETY SCHOOL = ASSURED ADMISSIONS

- **Safety School** - A college or university where you met all the admission requirements. Potentially gain automatic acceptance to the institution based off your academic profile.
  - Example: you have met SAT/ ACT requirements, GPA, and quartile.
- Having a list of Safety Schools will guarantee
  - Automatic entrance to the college or University (You will receive an acceptance letter)
  - A safety school will give you the option to select the college or university you would like to attend.



# NAVIANCE - SCATTERGRAMS



# What is “assured admissions” in Texas?

**Assured admission** is based on the required combination of the high school class rank and college entrance test scores as indicated below. The State of Texas guarantees automatic admissions to all state-funded universities in the state.

Automatic Admission Requirements 2018-2019							Notes
Top 6%	Top 7-10%	Top 11-25%	Top 26-50%	Top 51-75%	Top 76-100%		
1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter	4th Quarter		
SAT/ACT	SAT/ACT	SAT/ACT	SAT/ACT	SAT/ACT	SAT/ACT		
University of Texas	No Min					Review	
University of Texas-Dallas	No Minimum					Review	
Texas A&M University	No Minimum	1360/30				Review	
Texas A&M University-Galveston	No Minimum	1360/30				Review	
Texas Tech University	No Minimum	1180/24	1260/26	1290/27		Review	
University of Houston	No Minimum	1080/21	1170/24			Review	
University of North Texas	No Minimum	1030/20	1130/23	1250/26		Review	
University of Texas-Tyler	No Minimum	1020/20	1060/21	1100/22		1130/23	
Texas State University	No Minimum	1000/20	1090/22	1250/26		1330/29	
Lamar University	No Minimum	930/18	1010/20		1080/21		
Stephen F. Austin State University	No Minimum	930/17	1030/20	1170/24		Review	
Angelo State University	No Minimum		900/17			Review	
Texas A&M University-Kingsville	No Minimum	830/15	910/17	1030/20		1140/23	
Texas Southern University	No Minimum		GPA>2.5 and 900/17			Review	
Prairie View A&M University	No Minimum	800/15		GPA >2.75 and 800/15			
University of Texas-San Antonio	No Minimum		1170/24			Review	
University of Texas-Arlington	No Minimum		1130/22			Review	
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	No Minimum		1080/21	1170/23		1270/27	
Texas Woman's University	No Minimum		1080/21			Review	
Midwestern State University	No Minimum		1070/21	1140/23		1180/24	
Texas A&M University-Commerce	No Minimum			1060/21			No min for top 30%
Texas A&M International University	No Minimum		980/19	980/19		980/19	No min for top 40%
West Texas A&M University	No Minimum		940/18	1060/21		1130/23	Min GPA of 2.0
University of Texas-El Paso	No Minimum		970/19	970/19		990/21	

**\*Students with assured admissions must “file complete” with each college to receive a formal acceptance.**



# ASSURED ADMISSION VS. HOLISTIC REVIEW

## Assured Admission

Guaranteed admission based on class rank and/or test score (i.e., top 10%)

- Students who are “file complete” and are guaranteed admission, will receive an acceptance letter from any Texas public institution.



## Holistic Review

Admission based on the review of all application items

- GPA/Rank
  - Academic Rigor
- SAT or ACT score
- Resume
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Leadership experiences
  - Talents Awards
- Essays
- Letter(s) of recommendation
- Interview(s) (**more selective institutions**)



# HOLISTIC REVIEW

## **Private/Selective Institutions**

You're applying to a private institution inside or outside of Texas that doesn't have any guaranteed admission criteria.

1. GPA/Rank/Quartile
2. SAT/ACT Scores
3. Essay(s) – could also be #4
4. Extracurricular Activities – could also be #3
5. Letter(s) of Recommendation
6. Demonstrated Interest (if applicable)

## **Test optional/test flexible school**

You're applying to a school that does not require the SAT or ACT. Organize yourself based on what would be most to least important.

1. GPA/Rank/Quartile
2. Essay(s)
3. Extracurricular Activities
4. Letter(s) of Recommendation
5. Demonstrated Interest
6. Test scores (#6 if test optional, #2 if test flexible?)

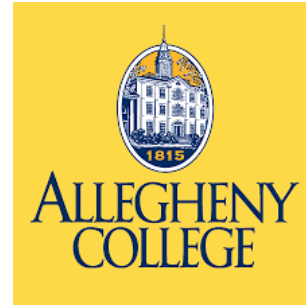


# WHAT ARE TEST OPTIONAL SCHOOLS

A test-optional admissions policy means some applicants can choose not to submit SAT or ACT scores. The rules vary per college. Some colleges may require applicants to provide supplemental information in place of test.

## Benefits

- Admissions flexibility for students who do not test well (i.e., students with strong GPA and low test scores)
- Focus on other portions of the application (i.e., extracurricular activities, experiences, personal statement)



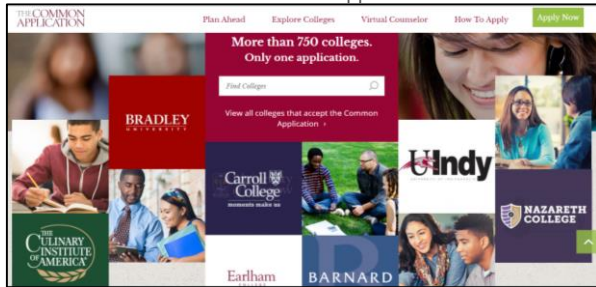
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO



# Most commonly used application platforms

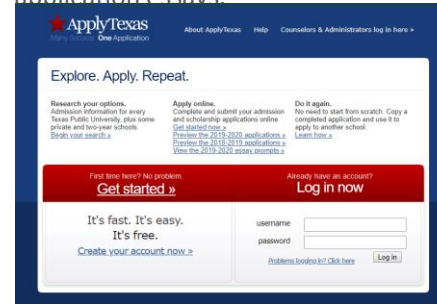
## The Common Application

- **Explore** – Research on 750 colleges and universities from across the world.
  - 13 Texas Public and Private institutions are affiliated with The CommonApp.
- **Apply** - Complete and submit an application to your choice institution .
- **Repeat** - Apply to more institutions using ONE application.
- The Common Application include 2 main components:
  - The Common Application Profile.



## ApplyTexas Application

- **Explore** - Search 2-year and 4-year institutions in Texas.
  - All Public Texas institutions
  - 21 Private Texas institutions
- **Apply** - Complete and submit an application to your choice institution .
- **Repeat** - Apply to more institutions using the same application.
- Apply for scholarships and submit college application essays.\*





# COLLEGE APPLICATION PLATFORMS

## Coalition Application



# STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

## Non-Restrictive Application Plans

### Regular Decision

**DEFINITION:**

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

**COMMITMENT:**

NON-BINDING

### Rolling Admission

**DEFINITION:**

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

**COMMITMENT:**

NON-BINDING

### Early Action (EA)

**DEFINITION:**

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

**COMMITMENT:**

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

## Restrictive Application Plans

### Early Decision (ED)

**DEFINITION:**

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

**COMMITMENT:**

BINDING

### Restrictive Early Action (REA)

**DEFINITION:**

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

**COMMITMENT:**

BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

Applicants must choose **ONE** of the above deadlines per college application



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “FILE COMPLETE”

- **Complete Admission File** - An applicant is considered “file complete” once the application and ALL required documents are submitted. Files must be received on or before the institution’s admissions deadline.
- **Required documents** (*\*if applicable*)
  - Essay
  - Application fee/Fee waiver
  - Official high school transcript
  - Official test scores (SAT/ACT/ SAT Subject Test)
  - Permanent Resident Card or I-551\*
  - Senate Bill 1528 Affidavit\*
  - Letter of Recommendation



# APPLICATION DECISION OUTCOMES

- Acceptance
  - Conditional Admission
  - Waitlisted
  - Denial
  - Withdraw
  - Appeal
- For some colleges and universities, mostly public, a denial is good until the student provides **new** information.
  - An appeal is possible when the student provides:
    - Increased SAT or ACT scores
    - Letters of Recommendation
    - Essays
    - Corrected information



# GENERAL INFORMATION

**High School Transcript:** Students will be asked to enter their high school GPA and current or most recent courses in the Education section.

**List of Activities, Work, and Family Responsibilities:** Extracurricular activities, family and or work responsibilities, internships, summer activities, community service. **Each student will have the option to list up to 10 activities in this section.**

**Test Scores and Dates from College Entrance Exams:** SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Test scores, among others, and they'll be asked to provide a month, day, and year for each.

**Parent/Legal Guardian Information:** Students will need to find out about their parents' education history and occupational information.

**Academic Honors and Achievements:** The student will be able to list any honors related to their academic achievements 9th - 12th.

Students will need a **reliable email address** to create an account

(The Common Application)



# Standardized Testing

## SAT

### *College Admissions Process*

- No point penalty for wrong answers
- 2 Sections
  - Evidence Based Reading and Writing
  - Math
  - Optional Essay (*Strongly recommended*)
- Score: Min 200, Max 800 - per section
- Length: 3 hours and 50 minutes
- **Send your own scores**
- Costs \$54.50
  - Waivers available for students on free/reduced lunch

\*Students on free/reduced lunch can send an unlimited amount of score reports.

## ACT

### *College Admissions Process*

- No point penalty for wrong answers
- 4 Sections
  - English
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Science
  - Writing optional (*Strongly Recommended*)
- Score: Scale of 1-36
- Length: 3 hours and 50 minutes
- **Send your own scores**
- Costs \$56.50 w/writing
  - Waivers available if on free/reduced lunch

## TSI

### *Placement Test*

The **Texas Success Initiative (TSI)** Assessment is to determine if a student is ready for college-level work in the areas of **reading, writing, and math**. Success in these areas can help the student complete their college degree or certificate program.



# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

## August

- Define your college list
- Determine application deadlines and requirements
- Create your college application account(s)
- Start/Finish writing college essays
- Begin/Submit college applications
- Retake SAT/ACT (if necessary)



## September

- Meet with your counselor/  
Complete counselor recommendation request
- Ask your teachers/mentors for letters of recommendation
- Begin to gather financial aid documentation for CSS Profile/FAFSA/TASFA
- Send SAT/ACT scores to your colleges



# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

## October

- FAFSA/TASFA/CSS available Oct 1<sup>st</sup>
  - First Come/First Serve
- Finalize college essays (if applicable)
- Continue submitting college applications
- Follow Up with your Recommenders (if applicable)
- Submit supplemental information to colleges



## November/December

- Early Admissions application deadlines begin (Nov 1, 15, 30)
- Finalize your college admissions applications (if applicable)
- Check admissions status and verify that all documents have been submitted
- Submit financial aid application ASAP





# College Affordability

*Don't let the price tag scare you!*



# Key College affordability terms

- **Grants** – Money awarded to students, from the government, based on need or merit to help pay for education expenses. This is money students do not need to pay back.
- **Scholarship** – money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid.
  - **Need-based scholarships** are awarded based on a student’s family income. Grades and test scores have no bearing on this.
  - **Academic (Merit) scholarships** are based on a variety of components, such as your performance and involvement in high school.
- **Subsidized Loan** – a loan based on financial need for which the federal government generally pays the interest that accrues while the borrower is in an in-school, grace, or deferment status.
- **Unsubsidized Loan** – a loan for which the borrower is fully responsible for paying the interest regardless of the loan status. Interest on unsubsidized loans accrues from the date of disbursement and continues throughout the life of the loan.
- **Work-study** – a refer student aid program that provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school to help pay for educational expenses.

*See handout for additional terms.*

# CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What makes up the sticker price of a college?



# WHAT DOES COLLEGE COST?



**Tuition & Fees:** The amount a student pays for college classes and any extra fees.



**Books & Supplies:** Textbooks needed for each class and any additional supplies or required materials



**Room & Board:** The cost for living on campus and eating meals on campus.



**Personal & Transportation:** Any additional expenses such as laundry, cell phone service, going out money, and flights home throughout the year.

**= Cost of Attendance**



# COST OF ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

	In-State Public College or Public University	Out-of-State Public College or Public University	Private College or Private University
Tuition	\$9,410	\$22,500	\$32,410
Books	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Student Fees	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Room and Board	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,250
Travel	\$500	\$500	\$500
Entertainment	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total	\$21,410	\$34,500	\$44,160



# COST OF ATTENDANCE

## DIRECT COSTS

- Tuition and Fees
- Room and Board



## INDIRECT COSTS

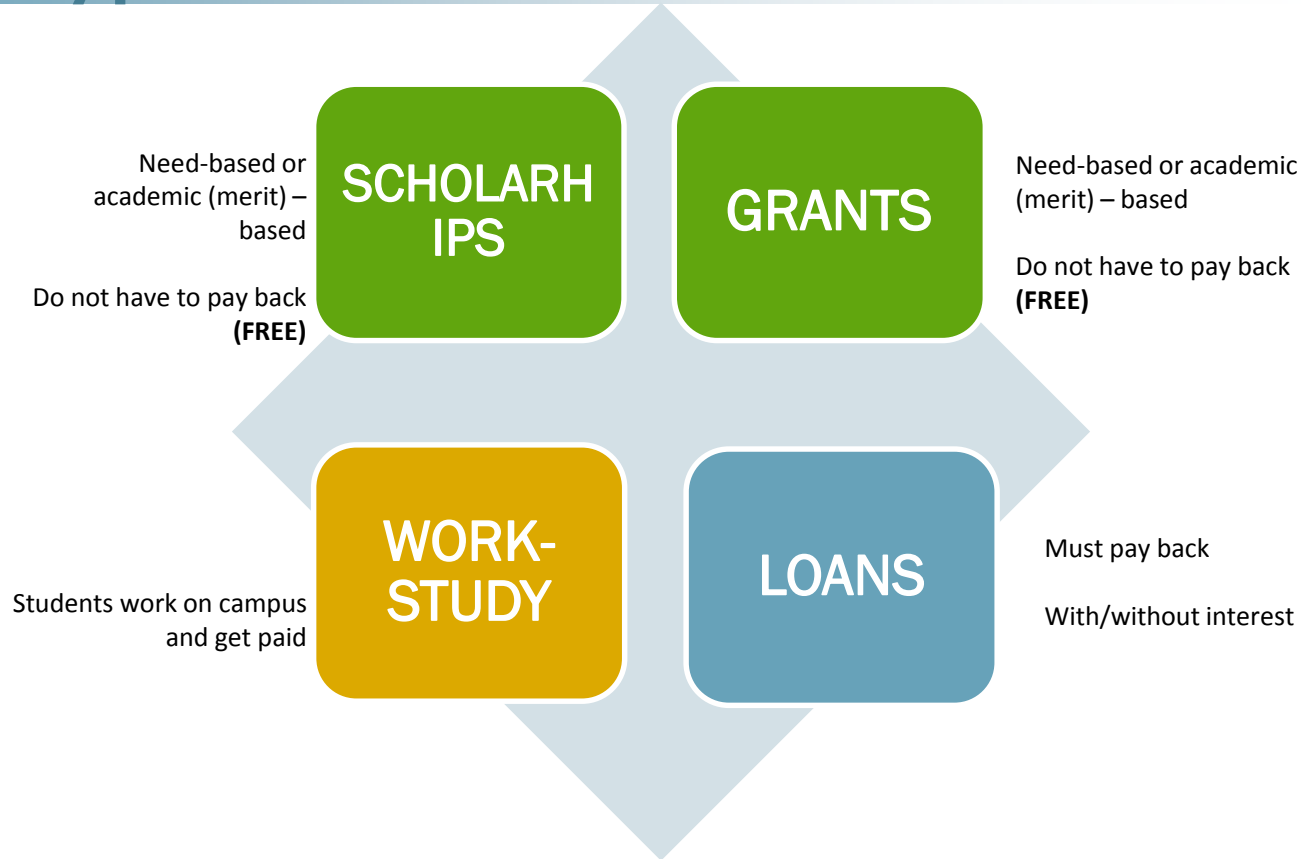
- Books and Supplies
- Travel Expenses
- Miscellaneous or Personal Expenses

**Direct Costs + Indirect Costs = Cost of Attendance**

Direct Costs, on average, are the primary items included in the student bill.



# Type of financial aid



# Types of financial aid applications

## FAFSA

- US Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Refugee or Asylum
- Visa (please check website for eligible Visa requirements)

OR

## TASFA

- TX Resident (3+ years)
- HS Grad/GED
- Temporary Residents (DACA/Work Permit)
- Undocumented Students

## CSS PROFILE

- Non-federal financial aid over 400 colleges/universities.
- All students can complete the application
- Not required by all institutions\*
- \$25 Initial application fee, \$16 for Additional Reports\*  
*For eligible students, the CSS Profile waiver will cover ALL applications and reporting fees.*
- Collegeboard Account Required





# BENEFITS OF COMPLETING THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

- Applying for financial aid helps students automatically qualify for
  - The Federal Pell Grant (max of \$6,095) [not TASFA]
  - Scholarships offered by the university
  - Grants offered by the university
- **Even if you don't think you qualify for financial aid, completing the FAFSA, or TASFA, and or CSS Profile will allow colleges to see what other scholarships & grants a student can qualify for**



# FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID



FAFSA = **Free** Application for Federal Student Aid

- Web page – [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Application opens **October 1st**
- Parent(s)/Student's social security number
- Permanent resident card (If applicable)
- Parent(s)/Student's date of birth
- 2017 Parent(s)/ Student's tax information\*
- Selective Service is **MANDATORY** for male students completing the FAFSA



# TEXAS APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID

## Student requirements

- Paper Application - [collegeforalltexas.com](http://collegeforalltexas.com)
- Application available **October 1<sup>ST</sup>**
- Student's date of birth
- Student's 2017 Tax Information (*if applicable*)
- IRS Non-Filer Letter (*if applicable*)
- SB 1528 Affidavit
- Student university ID # for each college
- Selective Service Registration Card (*male students*)

A copy of application and supplemental documents should be sent to **EACH** college applied to.

## Parent Requirements

- Parent date of birth
- Marriage Date (*if applicable*)
- 2017 Income Tax Return & Tax Transcript
- IRS Non-Filer Letter (*if applicable*)

Parent information is **required** unless student is classified as independent.

2018-19 TASFA			
Texas Application for State Financial Aid			July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019
<p>The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is used to collect information to help determine eligibility for state financial aid programs that are administered by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas. Students that are classified as a Texas Resident who cannot apply for federal financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are encouraged to complete the TASFA. To review the FAFSA filing requirements, visit <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> or visit the financial aid office at the institution you plan to attend for the 2018-19 award year. Please note that Texas Residency can only be determined by the institution that you plan to attend. This application cannot be used to determine your state residency status or final eligibility for state aid.</p> <p>To complete this application, each item within the applicable sections must be answered. <b>For clarification on specific items, please reference the Notes section. If you have further questions, contact the financial aid office at your institution.</b></p> <p>Texas state priority deadline for many institutions of higher education is <b>March 15, 2018</b> for the 2018-19 award year. It is recommended that applicants complete and submit this application and any other required documentation to the financial aid office prior to the state priority deadline date.</p>			
<b>STEP ONE: STUDENT INFORMATION (See Notes for questions 5-6)</b>			
1. Last Name	2. First Name	3. M.I.	
4. Date of Birth	5. Social Security Number or DACA # or Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>	6. College Student ID	
7. Permanent Mailing Address			
8. City	9. State	10. Zip Code	11. Phone Number
12. Email Address		Alternate Email:	



# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP SERVICE



## CSS PROFILE

Non-federal financial aid over 400 colleges/universities.

All students can complete the application

Not required by all institutions\*

\$25 Initial application fee, \$16 for Additional Reports\*

*For eligible students, the CSS Profile waiver will cover **ALL** applications and reporting fees.*

Collegeboard Account Required



---

# Additional Information



# COLLEGE FLY - IN OPPORTUNITIES

A fly-in program is when a college offers a student to visit their campus at a free cost or assist students with financial assistance. Usually, invitations are extended to underrepresented and diverse students (i.e., first-gen, low-income, minority) Often referred to as diversity programs, multicultural programs, travel assistance programs, etc.

## Benefits

- Visit college campus
- Pre-Screening for college applications
- Free, travel assistance programs



# College Fairs

- **Colleges that Change Lives**
  - **Go To College Fairs**
  - **Joint Travel Programs**



---

# QUESTIONS

